Davis-Bacon
Wage Determination
Surveys
• All construction types.

• Conducted by WHD Branch of Wage Surveys.

• Survey - Schedule and Status on WHD Web Site:

  http://www.dol.gov/whd/govcontracts/wagesurveys.htm
Some Reasons to Survey

- Age of current WD
- Level of construction activity
- Number of conformances
Three Basic Elements

- Survey Area – primarily statewide (rates will be issued by locality—typically by county).
- Construction Type (projects of a similar character).
- Survey timeframe.
Obtaining & Compiling Wage and Fringe Benefit Data

• Payment data on construction projects from construction contractors and other interested parties.

• Certified payrolls provided by federal agencies from Davis-Bacon contracts (supplements data from other sources, where appropriate).
Wage Survey Process

- Notification of contractors and interested parties;
- Non-respondent follow-up; and
- Data collection, analysis and clarification.
Wage Survey Process

- The prevailing wage includes both wages and fringe benefits

- Basic hourly rate calculation:
  - Majority Rate: More than 50% of workers receive a single rate.
  - Weighted Average Rate: No majority rate is paid.

**NOTE:** If insufficient data is received for a classification, no rate will be recommended.
Fringe Benefit Calculation:
- Majority of workers must first receive a fringe benefit:
  - Majority rate; or
  - Weighted average rate.
Survey Sufficiency Criteria

• Sufficient data must be received for at least half the **KEY CLASSES** of a construction type

• Classifications determined necessary for each construction type, vary by type and number accordingly
Key Classes for Building Construction

- Boilermakers
- Bricklayers
- Carpenters
- Cement Masons
- Electricians
- Heat & Frost Insulators
- Iron Workers
- Laborers - Common
- Painters
- Pipefitters
- Plumbers
- Power Equipment Operators
- Roofers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Tile Setters
- Truck Drivers
Key Classes for Heavy & Highway Construction

- Carpenters
- Cement Masons
- Electricians
- Iron Workers

- Laborers - Common
- Painters
- Power Equipment Operators
- Truck Drivers
Key Classes for Residential Construction

- Bricklayers
- Carpenters
- Cement Masons
- Electricians
- Iron Workers
- Laborers-Common
- Painters
- Plumbers
- Equipment Operators
- Roofers
- Sheet Metal Workers
- Truck Drivers
• Verification procedures;

• Survey results to NO; and

• Wage determination publication.
Impact of Non-Participation in the Survey

• Prevailing rates based on a limited amount of data.

• Prevailing rates based on data from outside the county where work is being performed.
Groups and Supergroups

Fringe Benefit Calculation:
• Majority of workers must first receive a fringe benefit:
  – Majority rate; or
  – Weighted average rate.
Impact of Non-Participation in the Survey

- Prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits that are less likely to reflect the wage rates and fringe benefits that Contractors pay their employees.

- Wage decisions with missing classifications of employees creating uncertainty in the bidding process.
Impact of Survey Participation

Accuracy and completeness of wage determinations is dependent upon:

• Survey participation by contractors, unions, contractor associations, federal agencies and other interested parties; and

• The level of construction activity.
Impact of Survey Participation

- Attendance Survey Briefings
- Submitting WD10s
- Submitting subcontractor lists

Will increase Quantity and Quality of Wage Determinations.
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